

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: May 17, 2005

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-211)

TO: Sabrina Keen  
Fish & Wildlife Project Manager, KEWU-4

**Proposed Action:** Upper Red River Restoration Project

**Project No:** 2002-072-00

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):**

- Obliterate, abandon and/or improve 36 miles of road. 7.18 Road Closure
- Replace culvert. 1.13 Culvert Removal/Replacement to Improve Fish Passage Techniques
- Conduct 8.5 acres of soil restoration (in conjunction with road work) 7.18 Road Closure
- Minor improvements to Bridge Creek Campground to prevent stripping and sloughing of soil into the streams as a result of heavy use 7.7 Reduce Risk of Road-Related Surface Erosion. 1.8 Bank Protection Through Vegetation Management. 7.18 Road Closure.

**Location:** Red River Watershed, Nez Perce National Forest, Idaho County, Idaho

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Nez Perce Tribe.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Red River Ranger District of the Nez Perce National Forest in cooperation with the Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Watershed Dept. has completed an Environmental Analysis for this project, which involves the decommissioning, and improvement of roads, soil restoration, culvert removal and replacement, and some minor campground improvements in the Red River Watershed. The project is planned to begin the summer of 2005. Specifically, the proposal is to reduce erosion and potential maintenance problems through road improvements and decommissioning, and campground improvements to the Bridge Creek Campground, as well as providing for fish passage and alleviating undersized culverts through culvert removal and replacements. BPA is the federal funding agency for this project and is completing this Supplemental Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265).

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Stephanie Bransford, Project Manager, Biologist III, Nez Perce Tribe, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

**Endangered Species Act information:** In compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), a Biological Assessment and Evaluation for Listed and Sensitive Species and Essential Fish Habitat Assessment for the Upper Red River Watershed Restoration Project was submitted for consultation in 2004. A Final Biological Opinions from USFWS was received January 31, 2005, and a NOAA BO was received March 23, 2005.

**Cultural resource information:** In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, surveys were conducted for Native American religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites, and historic properties in areas that may be affected by the proposed project as reported in the following: 1) Upper Red River Watershed Restoration Project, A Heritage Resource Inventory Report, August 10, 2004 by Stephanie VanBuskirk, Archeologist. No cultural properties were found in the Area of Potential Effect (APE). 2) No Historic Properties Affected determination was signed by the Forest Cultural Resource Specialist. 3) Surveys of site work locations were conducted by a Tribal Archeologist and it was determined that no known cultural sites lie within the project work area.

**Permit information:** A 404 permit will be secured in 2005 prior to project implementation.

**Public involvement information:** An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were prepared for this project by the Nez Perce Tribe and the Nez Perce National Forest. As part of the development of the EA mentioned above, a public scoping letter was mailed on February 24, 2004 to the Nez Perce National Forest mail list. A public notice was published in the Lewiston Morning Tribune on November 5, 2004.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Watershed Management Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required. Support documentation for this project is maintained in BPA's environmental planning file.

/s/ Colleen Spiering  
Colleen Spiering  
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce  
Katherine S. Pierce  
Acting NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 5/07/2005

Attachment:  
Checklist

cc: (w/o attachment)  
Ms. Stephanie Bransford – Nez Perce Tribe

# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Bonneville Power Administration

PROJECT NAME: Upper Red River Restoration Project

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BPA PROJECT NUMBER: 2002-072-00 LOCATION OF PROJECT: Red River Watershed, Nez Perce National Forest, Idaho County, ID

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GRANTEE: Organization: Nez Perce Tribe  
Primary Contact: Stephanie Bransford  
Address: P.O. Box 365, Lapwai, ID 83540  
Phone: 208-842-2113

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## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

The project proposal is to obliterate, abandon and/or improve approximately 36 miles of roads (13 miles obliteration, 20 miles improve, 3 miles abandon), replace 1 culvert, conduct 8.5 acres of soil restoration, and do minor campground improvements to the Bridge Creek Campground. The proposed project is planned to begin the summer of 2005, with implementation of approximately 6-10 miles of road decommissioning and or improvements and the Bridge Creek Campground improvements, with the additional roads and 1709 culvert replacement to occur during the summer/fall of 2006. Specifically, the proposal is to reduce erosion and potential maintenance problems through road improvements, obliteration, soil restoration, and campground improvements, as well as providing for fish passage and alleviating undersized culverts through culvert removal and replacements. The decreased sediment input will improve spawning gravels and rearing habitat both locally and downstream of the project area.

LIST TECHNIQUES OR ACTIONS, BY NUMBER AND TITLE, TO BE ADDRESSED BY THIS PROJECT  
(See [Appendix A](#) of the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS))

1. Obliterate, abandon and/or improve 36 miles of road. 7.18 Road Closure
  2. Replace culvert. 1.13 Culvert Removal/Replacement To Improve Fish Passage Techniques
  3. Conduct 8.5 acres of soil restoration (in conjunction with road work) 7.18 Road Closure
  4. Minor improvements to Bridge Creek Campground to prevent stripping and sloughing of soil into the streams as a result of heavy use 7.7 Reduce Risk of Road-Related Surface Erosion. 1.8 Bank Protection Through Vegetation Management. 7.18 Road Closure.
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**The following checklist provides documentation for compliance with the environmental requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental laws and regulations.** The checklist also follows procedures established by the [Watershed Management Program Final EIS](#) and its corresponding Record of Decision (ROD). BPA staff will use this checklist to prepare the supplemental analysis required by the EIS and ROD.

**BPA-funded projects must follow the eight-step planning process found in the ROD.** (Using the checklist during your planning process and completing it as you proceed will ensure your project fulfills the required steps.) **Each planning step must be addressed in a Project Management Plan for your project.** The Plan's scope and complexity will vary with the project's scope and complexity. The planning process should be interactive and flexible; the steps may occur out of sequence or simultaneously, and the results of one step may require you to re-evaluate earlier steps. BPA can assist you with surveys for cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, and hazardous wastes, although you may have to pay for contractor services, if needed, from your project funds.



## **EIGHT-STEP PLANNING PROCESS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

### **2. INVOLVE STAKEHOLDERS**

- A.** Consult with affected tribes, state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, cities, local governments, and nearby landowners.

Affected parties:

Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), USFS (Nez Perce National Forest), IDFG, IDEQ, USFWS, NOAA, and nearby landowners (Red River Hot Springs, Red River Corrals, etc.)

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- B.** Develop an effective public involvement program. Consider how to inform people about your project and solicit their comments, both early and throughout the planning process. Consider mailings, public notices, public meetings and workshops, Internet postings, radio advertisements, and stories or ads in the local newspaper and in BPA's monthly newsletter.

Describe program, list contacts made and/or methods of contact (i.e. newsletter, public meeting):

A public scoping letter was sent out to the NPNF's NEPA mailing list on February 24, 2004. A public notice was published in the Lewiston Morning Tribune on November 5, 2004. Draft Environmental Assessments were sent to those who submitted comments to the public scoping letter.

Provide a summary of the comments received from your public involvement activities and any response your agency provided. Attach a copy of written comments, if applicable:

Comment letters are attached.

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- C.** Where possible, form partnerships and plan cooperatively with government agencies and others to reduce costs, increase benefits, and/or eliminate duplication.

List partners:

USDA Forest Service, Nez Perce National Forest

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### **3. DEVELOP A STATEMENT OF DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION**

- A.** Identify a desired future condition for aquatic habitat in the project area, in cooperation with any other watershed activities, that responds to achieving established aquatic habitat objectives (See Step 5) and is self-sustaining (low-maintenance).

State-desired future condition or state where it is documented:

Reduced chronic sediment input from roads and campground, passage of all aquatic species at all life stages through culvert replacement.

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- B.** *For projects involving land acquisition*, consider developing sustainable resources (such as timber harvest or crop production) if consistent with established aquatic habitat objectives. These resources could be used to offset initial or long-term maintenance costs.

Describe if applicable:

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### **4. CHARACTERIZE THE HISTORICAL AND PRESENT SITE CONDITIONS AND TRENDS**

- A.** Establish baseline information for aquatic habitat and species against which change can be measured (related to the "measurable aquatic habitat objective" standard included in Step 5).

Reference:

Red River Ecosystem Analysis at the Watershed Scale (EAWS), USDA Forest Service, December 2003.

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## **EIGHT-STEP PLANNING PROCESS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

- B.** Consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and affected tribes to identify potential occurrences of cultural resources.

SHPO contacted on (date): November 8, 2004 (email); concurrence received, project falls within Nez Perce National Forest's Programmatic Agreement since there are no sites within the project area.

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Tribe(s) (list) and contacted on (date)

1. Nez Perce Tribe contacted summer of 2004, concurrence on project.
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- C.** Prepare a Biological Assessment to address impacts to threatened or endangered plant and animal species identified by the USFWS and/or NMFS as potentially occurring in the vicinity of the project area, before disturbing land or conducting other activities that may affect such species.

Describe:

Final Biological Assessment completed, USFWS (concurrence received January 31, 2005) and NOAA (concurrence received March 23, 2005)

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- D.** Identify and map basic physical conditions such as soil conditions, topography, hydrology, vegetation, and biological information within the vicinity of the project area.

Reference information:

Red River Ecosystem Analysis at the Watershed Scale (EAWS), USDA Forest Service, December 2003.

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### **5. ESTABLISH PROJECT GOALS**

- A.** Establish measurable aquatic habitat and physical habitat objectives (e.g., compliance with existing state water quality standards, number of habitat units, list of indicator species).

Compliance w/ existing state water quality standards (South Fork Clearwater River TMDL) and Nez Perce Nation Forest Plan.

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- B.** Include these project goals, established by the Council:

- Protect and improve a variety of fish habitats, including spawning beds, overwintering and rearing areas, resting pools, and protective cover, especially high-quality native or other habitat for species of special concern (whether present at the project site or not), including endangered, threatened, or sensitive species;

Reduce chronic sediment input to streams to improve habitat for long-term benefit.

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- Develop riparian habitat that could benefit water quality, fish, and wildlife;

Remove stream crossings on decommissioned roads allowing for reestablishment of a natural riparian area at the crossing.

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- Mitigate habitat losses in place, in kind, wherever possible;

Documented in Upper Red River Biological Assessment (BA) and Biological Opinions (BOs) from USFWS and NOAA.

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- Protect and improve natural ecosystems and species diversity over the long term;

Reduce chronic sediment input to streams to improve habitat for long-term benefit.

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## **EIGHT-STEP PLANNING PROCESS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

Develop habitat that complements the activities of the region's tribes, state and federal fish, wildlife, and water resource agencies, and private landowners; and

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Achieve a future condition that is self-sustaining after initial improvements have been completed.

Reduce chronic sediment input to streams to improve habitat for long-term benefit. No additional road maintenance will be needed on decommissioned roads and limited maintenance on improved roads.

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### **6. DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN ACTION PLAN FOR ACHIEVING THE GOALS**

**A.** The plan is consistent with tribal legal rights and tribal interests are addressed.

Reference:

Upper Red River Environmental Assessment, 2004

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**B.** The plan addresses any effects on minority or low income populations if there are disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects (Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice).

Reference:

Upper Red River Environmental Assessment, 2004

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**C.** The plan addresses state and federal regulations for all activities in or near streams and wetlands, including (1) the Clean Water Act, Sections 401 and 404; (2) Protection of Wetlands, Executive Order 11990; (3) Floodplain Management, Executive Order 11988; and (4) Rivers and Harbors Act of 1879 (Section 10).

List applicable permits and status:

1. A 404 permit will need to be secured before the culvert replacement is implemented (scheduled for implementation summer of 2006).
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**D.** If the plan includes activities that may affect threatened and endangered species or their habitat and/or Essential Fish Habitat, work with BPA to consult with USFWS and/or NMFS in compliance with Section 7 of the ESA.

Reference:

Upper Red River Biological Assessment, USFWS & NOAA Upper Red River Biological Opinions, concurrence received January 31, 2005 and March 23, 2005 respectively.

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**E.** *For projects involving the use of pesticides*, the plan uses only pesticides approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and only in the manner specified by EPA. Also, the plan prevents use of pesticides in or near surface water, unless it has been EPA-approved for such use.

Reference:

It has not been determined whether or not pesticides will need to be used. But if they do then it has been addressed in the Upper Red River BA.

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## EIGHT-STEP PLANNING PROCESS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

**N/A** F. The plan addresses visual impacts by developing designs that screen streambank and habitat structures from sensitive viewing locations and that are in compliance with Wild, Scenic, or Recreational River management guidelines, as appropriate.

Reference:

Red River is not a designated Wild and Scenic River. Campground improvements are minor and will be implemented during the weekday as not to disrupt weekend users.

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**X** G. *If consultation with the SHPO and tribes, under Step 4, indicates a potential for cultural resources*, the plan incorporates surveys to document any cultural resources that may be present. If found, the plan incorporates a cultural resource management plan or other SHPO-approved actions where deemed necessary.

Reference survey report: Upper Red River Watershed Restoration Project, A Heritage Resource Inventory Report, August 10, 2004.

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Reference cultural resource management plan: Upper Red River Final Environmental Assessment

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**X** H. The plan considers recreational opportunities suitable for physically disabled persons where existing access allows. The plan specifies that any new public-use facilities are free of barriers to persons with physical disabilities.

Reference:

The Forest Service has designated roads for physically disabled persons to access. These roads do not lie within the project area.

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**X** I. *For forest lands*, the plan specifies a collective management agreement with federal and state landowners to implement actions outlined in the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review.

Reference:

Red River Ecosystem Analysis at the Watershed Scale (EAWS), USDA Forest Service, December 2003.

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**N/A** J. *For projects involving prescribed burns*, the plan addresses air quality impacts by obtaining required permits and following state-defined smoke management guidelines to determine allowable smoke qualities.

List applicable permits and status:

1.

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**X** K. The plan ensures that the project does not shift problems to another watershed or portion of a watershed.

Reference:

Upper Red River Watershed Restoration Project, Final Environmental Assessment

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**X** L. The plan assures quality control of project plans through technical reviews by qualified peers and appropriate agency personnel.

List reviewers:

1. Dave Mays, District Fisheries Biologist; Steve Blair and Joanne Bonn, NPNF Wildlife Biologists; Randy Borniger and Gary Loomis, District Recreation and Trails Specialists; Nick Gerhardt, NPNF Hydrologist; Joe Bonn, NPNF Engineer; Brian Jenkins, District AFMO Fuels Specialist; Scott Althouse, NPT Policy Analyst and Biologist, Clay Fletcher, USFWS; Kevin Traylor, NOAA.

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## **EIGHT-STEP PLANNING PROCESS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

- M.** The plan considers the full range of management techniques available, including adaptive management strategies, and uses the methods that best achieve the established aquatic habitat objectives in a cost-effective manner.

Reference other research/persons consulted:

Clearwater National Forest / Nez Perce Tribe Road Decommissioning and Fish Passage Program,  
Rebecca Lloyd (NPT)

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- N.** The plan considers the results of similar projects, and consults the literature and other individuals doing similar types of projects to incorporate adaptive management strategies as the plan develops.

Reference other research/persons consulted:

Clearwater National Forest / Nez Perce Tribe Road Decommissioning and Fish Passage Program,  
Rebecca Lloyd (NPT)

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- O.** The plan favors watershed management activities that have side benefits for wildlife, such as riparian habitat restoration.

List any applicable activities:

Road decommissioning, culvert replacement, campground and road improvements

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- P.** The plan encourages the use of available local supplies and labor to accomplish project goals and objectives.

Describe:

Use of local contractors is preferred.

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- Q.** The plan identifies opportunities for work skill training in conjunction with watershed management activities, such as encouraging construction contractors to use the local employment security office to hire staff for positions that involve on-the-job training.

List opportunities provided:

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### **7. MONITOR CONDITIONS AND EVALUATE RESULTS**

- A.** Establish performance standards and monitor success in achieving the project goals outlined in Step 5.

Documented in the Upper Red River BA in the Monitoring and Evaluation section.

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- B.** File as-implemented and 1-year monitoring reports with BPA's Watershed Management Program.

Date first report due: November 31, 2005 (Project's 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly report for FY 2006)

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### **8. ADAPT MANAGEMENT ACCORDING TO NEW INFORMATION**

- A.** Use information from monitoring to guide annual management priorities and activity planning.

Explain:

Monitoring results will be used to guide future efforts in planning and future provincial proposal reviews.

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## EIGHT-STEP PLANNING PROCESS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

- B.** Consult the literature and obtain peer review during the development of adaptive management strategies.

Reference:

Nez Perce National Forest Plan Revisions, future provincial review projects proposals

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## EIGHT-STEP PLANNING PROCESS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

### MITIGATION MEASURES

Project managers are to incorporate in the project management plan the following resource-specific mitigation measures, as appropriate. Please check the mitigation measures you are incorporating in your project. If they are not applicable, put N/A. If your response is not self-explanatory, please provide clarification.

#### SOILS

- A.** Develop and implement an erosion control plan according to applicable Best Management Practices [USFS, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or other] for each activity that involves disturbing soils (such as preparation of seedbeds or creation of wetlands).

Placing slash and seeding to prevent soil surface erosion.

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- B.** Where soil-disturbing activities are being considered, survey soil conditions to find and map potentially fragile soil types (such as those highly susceptible to erosion) and allow only those activities that would not disturb soils in these areas.

Reference:

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- C.** Monitor newly disturbed soils for evidence of erosion and implement active controls, such as plowing and seeding of new gullies (or temporary stabilization for later seeding during dry season).

Placing slash and seeding to prevent soil surface erosion.

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- N/A** **D.** *For projects involving prescribed burns*, conduct a pre-burn inventory to identify areas to avoid, including areas that may be vulnerable to increased erosion. Develop an approach to avoid these areas in accordance with the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review.
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#### WATER AND FISH RESOURCES

- A.** Select, implement, and enforce applicable Best Management Practices to protect water quality (such as those of the USFS or BLM) based on site-specific conditions, technical and economic feasibility, and the water quality standards for those waters potentially affected.

Documented in the Upper Red River BA.

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- B.** Isolate in-stream construction from flow and remove fish above or below the construction site during construction. Coordinate in-channel projects with state, local, and/or tribal fisheries agencies and obtain necessary permits.

List applicable permits and status:

1. 404 permit (need to secure in 2005), Final Biological Opinions from USFWS and NOAA. USFWS BO received January 31, 2005, NOAA BO received March 23, 2005.
-

## EIGHT-STEP PLANNING PROCESS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

- C.** Monitor water quality downstream from activities with potentially significant adverse affects on water quality, such as those land-disturbing activities occurring within 15 meters (50 feet) of the wetted perimeter of a stream or wetland. Implement corrective actions for conditions approaching maximum allowable degradation under state regulation.

Documented in the Upper Red River BA.

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- D.** *For projects involving use of fertilizer,* minimize use of fertilizer and implement monitoring of downstream wetlands and streams to identify possible adverse affects. Stop application of fertilizer if signs of eutrophication are detected.

Fertilizer used only in small amounts on decommissioned roads, we have never seen or documented problems on past similar projects.

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- E.** *For projects involving wetland and/or island creation,* construct wetlands and islands during the dry season.
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- F.** *For projects involving wetland creation,* ensure adequate strategy to control nutrients excreted by large concentrations of waterfowl.
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- G.** Monitor dissolved oxygen levels in water released from deep impoundments and take actions to eliminate low-oxygen discharges, if found.
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- H.** Withdraw surface water or groundwater only where such withdrawal is necessary for the use and management of the property and is demonstrated not to cause significant adverse effects on aquatic life, riparian communities, or adjacent land use.

Reference:

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- I.** Develop water impoundments or diversions in consultation with state water agencies and state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies. Obtain U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other applicable permits, where needed.

List applicable permits and status:

1.

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- J.** Monitor groundwater quality under lands within the vicinity of the project area for projects that may contribute to groundwater contamination by herbicides, nutrients, petroleum hydrocarbons, and other soluble substances. Take corrective actions for conditions found to exceed state groundwater quality standards.
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- K.** Use hydraulic models for the design of in-stream structures to ensure that all stream-channel morphology variables are adequately addressed.

Use natural stream simulation for culvert design.

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## **EIGHT-STEP PLANNING PROCESS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

- L.** Coordinate with state pollution control (water quality) agencies for projects involving the identification/assessment of a problem impacting water quality or post-implementation monitoring of project measures designed to improve water quality. Obtain existing water quality data and address compatibility of existing and any proposed monitoring data (e.g. format, quality control, etc.).

Name agency(s) you have coordinated with and status:

1. IDEQ supports project, project implementation will count towards implementation of South Fork Clearwater River TMDL.
- 

### **VEGETATION**

- A.** Acquire seeds and plants from stock grown under similar environmental conditions. Native stock is preferred; on-site native stock is ideal.
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- B.** *For projects involving wetland creation or expansion, survey for and avoid sensitive features during early planning.*
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- C.** *For projects involving vegetation control, develop a weed control plan with specific protocols for use of herbicides, mechanical, and biological methods, in consultation with local weed control officials. Protocols could be adapted from the USFS 1988 Final EIS for Managing Competing and Unwanted Vegetation.*

Reference:

Weeds will be part of the monitoring and evaluation after the project is completed. If weed infestations are found then they are to be treated, as documented in the Upper Red River BA.

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- D.** *For projects involving vegetation control, conduct weed control programs more efficiently and with a greater regional effect by using joint multi-agency planning.*

Weed eradication will be coordinated with the Nez Perce National Forest.

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### **WILDLIFE**

- A.** Before implementing any active management technique, identify sensitive wildlife habitats or features (such as eagle nests or mule deer winter range) and establish buffers and timing restrictions in consultation with state and/or tribal wildlife biologists.

Consultation with USFS, USFWS, and NPT has been completed. Project should not interfere with sensitive wildlife habitats or features, as documented in the Upper Red River EA & BA.

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- B.** Restrict access, either seasonally or spatially, to protect sensitive wildlife areas, including recently planted, riparian, or nesting areas (such as heron colonies) and wildlife concentration areas (such as wintering areas for waterfowl or deer).

None exists in project area.

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## **EIGHT-STEP PLANNING PROCESS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

**C.** Use interpretive signs and on-site custodian care to reduce adverse impacts of recreation on sensitive wildlife habitats.

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**D.** *For projects involving introduction, reintroduction, or augmentation of wildlife populations, test animals for diseases before release.*

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**E.** Coordinate wildlife control efforts with state wildlife agencies and with Animal Damage Control, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. If threatened or endangered species are involved, coordinate with the USFWS.

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**F.** Avoid vegetation removal during the nesting season for birds. Where such removal is unavoidable, conduct nest surveys for sensitive bird species before disturbing lands.

Project implementation will not occur during nesting season, no concerns documented by NPNF wildlife biologists.

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**G.** *For projects involving prescribed burns, conduct inventories and establish fire breaks around riparian areas before conducting burns (unless riparian areas are expected to benefit from the treatment).*

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**H.** Inventory vegetation in areas proposed for land-disturbing activities and avoid high-quality native vegetation communities (as defined by state or tribal agencies).

TES Plant surveys completed in 2004 - no TES plant species found within area of disturbance.

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### **LAND AND SHORELINE USE**

**A.** *For projects involving land use changes, meet with county land use officials and seek public input during early planning stages to develop the project in a manner consistent with local plans and values and to coordinate the efficient and effective use of multi-jurisdictional resources.*

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**B.** Survey proposed alignments of water distribution systems to ensure that no rights-of-way or access routes are blocked.

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## **EIGHT-STEP PLANNING PROCESS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

**N/A** C. *For projects involving prescribed burns*, identify acceptable weather conditions and develop contingency plans in the event of fire escaping to adjacent lands.

### **ECONOMICS**

**A.** Encourage using local supplies and labor to accomplish project goals and objectives.

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**B.** Train and maintain a qualified work force to plan and implement various watershed restoration projects safely and effectively.

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**N/A** C. *For projects involving prescribed burns*, establish inter-local agreements with fire districts, the USFS, and other agencies to assist in controlled burn activities.

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**N/A** D. Involve local and downstream water users and local water agencies to ensure that project water uses do not significantly affect productivity or production costs of water-dependent agriculture.

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### **RECREATION/VISUAL**

**A.** Identify safe public recreational opportunities in conjunction with the project that do not jeopardize aquatic habitat objectives.

Campground improvements to the Bridge Creek Campground.

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**B.** Identify recreational opportunities suitable for physically disabled persons.

Reference:

Forest Service has designated roads for disabled persons to access.

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### **AIR QUALITY**

**N/A** A. *For projects involving prescribed burns*, restrict prescribed fires to specific conditions, such as when (1) weather conditions and forecasts are favorable to a controlled burn, (2) air quality is sufficiently high to allow local smoke emissions, and (3) smoke dispersion conditions are favorable.

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**N/A** B. *For projects involving prescribed burns*, use state-defined smoke management direction to determine allowable smoke quantities.

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## **EIGHT-STEP PLANNING PROCESS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

- N/A** C. *For projects involving the aerial application of herbicides*, develop specific protocols for use of herbicides, including protocols to protect air quality. Protocols could be adapted from the USFS 1988 Final EIS for Managing Competing and Unwanted Vegetation.

Reference:

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### **OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION**

- X The project does not include supplementation activities (e.g., building fish rearing ponds, providing for fish transportation, fish planting activities, or equipment to support planting activities).
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**EIGHT-STEP PLANNING PROCESS FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

**ASSURANCES**

To the best of my knowledge, the project does not violate any applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health.

As a duly authorized representative of the grantee, I certify that the information provided above was duly researched, is true to the best of my knowledge, and is provided in good faith.

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*SIGNATURE<sup>2</sup>* *DATE*

Stephanie Bransford *NAME*

Project Manager, Biologist III *TITLE*

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<sup>2</sup>*A HARD COPY OF YOUR SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED (Electronic signatures will not be accepted)*